

## Dump Fees Increase

By SUSANNA SHREHAN

In an effort to combat the rising costs of disposing of Duxbury's trash, selectmen this week approved new fees for commercial and demolition debris at the transfer station.

While supporting the fee hikes on the construction and commercial trash, selectmen rejected a plan to charge people to dispose of their upholstered furniture, mattresses, tires and hot water heaters. They said they wanted to ease into the new charges, which must be paid at the time of disposal by credit card, debit card or check.

According to DPW Director Tim Daley, Duxbury's costs to dispose of its construction waste at a facility in Bourne have increased by \$87,000 from the last fiscal year. In FY07, which begins July 1, it will cost the town \$187,000 to throw away this type of trash, he said.

The new fees will affect those who bring in more than one 30-gallon trash barrel filled with debris. Disposing of one 30-gallon barrel will cost \$5, although residents get to dump one barrel free per day. A small "level loaded" pickup truck or 5 foot by 8 foot trailer costs \$25. That

continued on page 25

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Duxbury Clipper

## Dump Fees Increase

continued from page one

same small pickup truck or trailer that is "heaping" with trash must pay more at \$40. Larger pickup trucks pay even more. A "level loaded" large pickup (3/4 and one ton trucks) and trailers larger than 5 by 8 feet must pay \$30. If that big truck or trailer is "heaping" then its owner will pay \$70. All other vehicles, trailers and dump trucks will be charged by weight at a \$140 per ton rate with a \$70 load minimum.

It will also cost \$5 to dispose of porcelain items, i.e., sinks or toilets.

Daley said transfer station employees will use a handheld electronic device that will process credit and debit cards, give receipts and track each transaction. Information from this "retriever" device will be downloaded to the DPW computers so it can better track what items and how many of each are being thrown away. No cash will be accepted. Transfer station employees will collect from people at the commercial ramp to try to avoid traffic tie-ups at the entrance.

The new fees will go in effect August 2 to give the DPW enough time to educate the public and the transfer station staff. Collecting these new fees could net the town between \$134,000-\$195,000, said Daley.

"We've got to address this," said Sullivan. "We're not going to take every contractor's trash in the world. If they're dumping four barrels a day we start to look like idiots. It's not a big secret who the contractors are."

"We have to do something," said Town Manager Richard MacDonald. "It's obviously been abused."

The Fiscal Advisory Committee approved increased fees for the commercial and demolition debris as well as upholstered items, tires and hot water heaters. Daley researched disposal fees for mattresses, tires and hot water heaters at other local towns to arrive at his recommendations, which were \$20 per upholstered item (couch, loveseat, mattress); \$5 per tire; and \$5 per hot water heater. Selectmen were concerned about how the transfer station employees would be implementing the fees.

"There will be some lively discussions," said Selectmen Chairman Betsy Sullivan regarding when the transfer station employees begin charging per pickup truck load and determining whether it was a level load or a "heaping" load.

Selectmen wanted Daley and the fiscal advisory com-

mittee to investigate the extent of the abuse of some residents who bring in 5-10 mattresses or water heaters at a time under their residential permit.

"We've got to police that to a certain extent," said Sullivan. "We have to use some common sense...if a plumber comes in with one water heater a day, or someone comes in with 10-15 mattresses, they need to know we will no longer take their commercial debris."